



IV.-A.

Agenda Item

County of Hanover

Board Meeting: June 11, 2014

Subject: Adoption of Resolution – Local Support of the Utilization of Rail Preservation Funds – Buckingham Branch Railroad Company (BBR)

Summary of Agenda Item: Buckingham Branch Railroad began operating the eastern-most CSX rail line on December 21, 2004. BBR currently provides five day per week service to eight Hanover County customers. BBR is responsible for maintaining the former CSX track and has submitted an application to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation requesting funds from the Rail Preservation Program. This program provides funding to help improve rail infrastructure in the Commonwealth. BBR is requesting that Hanover County support its application for \$12,100,000 of Rail Preservation Funds which is planned for improving the railroad surface, replacement of up to ten linear miles of worn rail, extension of two railroad sidings and to construct a new siding parts, some of which lie within Hanover County. These projects are planned to take two-three years and occur at various locations between Railroad milepost 85.5 and 276.5, which are located between the City of Richmond and Clifton Forge, VA. Associated costs with the project include extending the Richfood siding an additional 3,100 feet and construction of 7,200 feet of new siding in Doswell. The project will also include adding ballast, surfacing, welding rail joints, crosstie replacement and replacing rail as needed.

No county funding is required for this program.

County Administrator's Recommended Board Motion: Motion to adopt the Resolution for Local Support of the Utilization of Rail Preservation Funds.



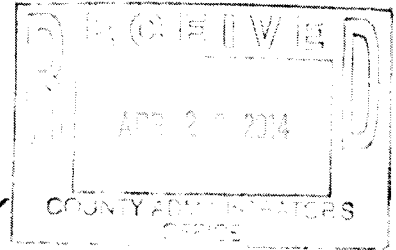
BUCKINGHAM BRANCH RAILROAD COMPANY

P.O. Box 336 – 1063 Main Street – Dillwyn, VA 23936

Phone 434-983-3300 (ext. 228)

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April 17, 2014



Hanover County Administrator's Office

P.O. Box 470

7516 County Complex Road

Hanover, VA 23069

Dear County Administrator,

Buckingham Branch Railroad Company is a family-owned short line railroad that operates 275 miles of railroad in Central Virginia. Buckingham Branch was founded in 1988 by Robert and Annie Bryant and ran its first train on March 6, 1989. Since then it has grown from a 17 mile line with two employees to its current size today of 275 miles with approximately 95 employees.

Buckingham Branch leased 200 miles of track from CSX and commenced operations of the Richmond and Alleghany Division on December 20, 2004. This operating lease was for track from Clifton Forge, VA to Richmond, VA, including 9.9 miles known as the Orange Branch. Since that time we have leased 58 miles of track from Norfolk Southern Railroad and now operate our Virginia Southern Division which has tracks from Burkeville to Clarksville, Virginia.

We are requesting a resolution from Hanover County supporting Buckingham Branch Railroad Company's application for grant funds from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation Rail Preservation Fund. Buckingham Branch Railroad will provide all local matching funds for the grants.

Attached is a summary of the applications and estimated project costs that may impact your locality. There may be more than one project application that affects your locality. Applications may be for projects that are distributed over more than one county or municipality.

The work outlined in the identified projects will help us to better serve you and all of the present and future industries located in the cities, towns and counties on the lines that we operate.

Some projects are multi-year projects. The resolution amount requested reflects total estimated costs for all of the identified projects.

A sample resolution and a map showing the location of our operations are included with this letter. A copy of the approved resolution should be sent to Mr. Claude Morris at mailing address shown in the letterhead.

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at our Dillwyn office. Additional information about our company and operations may be found at our web site:
www.buckinghambranch.com

We sincerely appreciate all of your past support. We look forward to many more years of serving your communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Claude Morris
Project Manager

SAFETY=SECURITY=SERVICE

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING
RAIL PRESERVATION APPLICATION
BUCKINGHAM BRANCH RAILROAD COMPANY**

WHEREAS, the Buckingham Branch Railroad desires to file an application with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for funding assistance for the projects; and

WHEREAS, Buckingham Branch Railroad has identified projects that are estimated to cost **\$12,100,000.00** ; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly, through enactment of the Rail Preservation Program, provides for funding for certain improvements and procurement of railways in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Buckingham Branch Railroad is an important element of the **Hanover County** transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the Buckingham Branch Railroad is instrumental in the economic development of the area, and provides relief to the highway system by transporting freight, and provides an alternate means of transportation of commodities; and

WHEREAS, the **County of Hanover** supports the projects and the retention of the rail service; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Transportation Board has established procedures for all allocation and distribution of the funds provided.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **County of Hanover** does hereby request the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to give priority consideration to the projects proposed by the Buckingham Branch Railroad.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the _____ (Date) meeting and sent to Buckingham Branch Railroad.

ADOPTED: _____ (date)

Signed: _____

Title: _____

Hanover County: Buckingham Branch Railroad Resolution Request for Rail Preservation Projects

Surface Improvements on the Richmond and Alleghany is a three year project that will focus on improving the railroad surface between MP 85.5 (Richmond) and MP 276.5 (Clifton Forge) and will also include the Orange Branch, MP 0 – MP 9 (Gordonsville to The Town of Orange). The project will include adding ballast, surfacing, welding rail joints, crosstie replacement and replacing rail as needed in order to reduce the maintenance requirements and improve the ride quality for Amtrak, CSX and Buckingham Branch trains. Total Estimated Cost of Project is **\$5,400,000.00**.

Rail Replacement on the Piedmont Subdivision of Buckingham Branch Railroad is a one year project that will replace up to ten linear miles of worn rail with continuous welded rail between MP 85.6 (Richmond) to MP 160 (Gordonsville). The project will help maintain Class 2 standards and help eliminate wheel burns and end bent joints on rail. Estimated total cost of project is **\$2,500,000.00**

Extension and Construction of Rail Sidings on the Piedmont Subdivision is a two year project to extend two railroad sidings and construct a new siding on the Piedmont Subdivision of Buckingham Branch Railroad. Phase 1 will include extending the C&O Siding located between MP 112.6 and 113.2 in Doswell, Hanover County. The siding will be extended up to an additional 3,600 feet. Phase one will also include extending the Richfood siding located between MP 91.5 and MP 92.3 in Hanover County. The Richfood siding will be extended up to an additional 3,100 feet.

Phase 2 of the project will include construction of up to a 7,200 foot new siding between MP 140.8 and MP 142.0 in Hanover County. The new passing siding will provide for the efficient handling of unit trains and help provide improved service and support for Buckingham Branch Customers.

Total estimated cost of project is **\$4,200,000.00**

Total Cost of Projects Requested to be Included in Resolution of Support: \$12,100,000.00

